

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EPISCOPAL CHURCH CENTER • 815 SECOND AVENUE • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017

Walter H. Boyd, Press Officer

Vm. Drew Dearnaley, Assistant Press Officer

Telephone: (212) 867-8400

81064

February 25, 1981

LIFE-CARE PLANS FOR SEABURY HOUSE TERMINATED

NEW YORK -- Life Care Services Corporation, of Des Moines, Iowa, has announced that it has decided against proceeding with plans to develop a life-care retirement community on the Seabury House property on Round Hill Road in Greenwich, Conn.

The board of trustees of Seabury House, an Episcopal Church conference center, had entered into a purchase agreement in 1979 to sell the property to the corporation if it could secure zoning and other approvals.

A company spokesman, Stan Thurston, stated that a lack of acceptance of the project by some segments of the community was the primary reason that the plans for the project have been terminated. "It remains our belief that the project would have been a tremendous asset to Greenwich. However, opposition to our plan was voiced by some individuals and neighborhood groups. Under the circumstances, we felt that it would be in everyone's best interests if we terminated our plans to purchase the Seabury House property."

Seabury House itself is one of six buildings on 50 acres of land located on Round Hill Road, north of Merritt Parkway.

The 75-year-old Seabury House, once owned by Herbert Satterlee, was purchased in 1947 by an Episcopal Church group under the leadership of the Rt. Rev. Henry Knox Sherrill, then Presiding Bishop. The estate was renamed Seabury House in honor of the first Episcopal Bishop consecrated in the United States, who happened to be a native of Connecticut.

Each year, some 4,000 guests come to Seabury House to participate in more than 75 conferences, retreats and meetings. Some are Episcopal Church groups but many are representatives of other denominations and agencies. In recent years an increasing number of Episcopal Church groups have been using regional facilities rather than the national site.

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Representatives of Seabury House have confirmed that the agreement with Life Care Services for the sale of the property has been terminated. Thurston stated, however, that Life Care Services still believes that the Greenwich area needs a life-care retirement residence, based on its previous experience in over 30 other communities throughout the country.

Under terms of the Seabury House charter, if the property should be disposed of, the assets would go to the Executive Council, and could be used to set up a Henry Knox Sherrill trust fund, the income from which would help finance meetings of the Executive Council and related committees and commissions.

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